



GAUTENG PROVINCE

CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Cllr Bongani Baloyi
The Executive Mayor
Midvaal Local Municipality
Cnr Mitchel & Junious Street
MEYERTON
1960

By email: mayor@midvaal.gov.za

Dear Cllr Baloyi

RE: COMMENTS ON THE 2019/20 MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY REVIEWED INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

Gauteng Municipalities, including Midvaal, have made significant strides in ensuring that their IDPs are credible and compliant with the law – as shown by the timeous development, review and adoption of both draft and final IDPs of the 2019/20 financial year. The Municipality is commended for this important milestone in improving the lives of our people. Municipalities are further commended for taking various initiatives aimed at promoting the linkages between IDPs and the strategic pathways of the other two spheres of government, despite challenges in the integrated development planning process.

In line with Section 32 (2) of the Municipal Systems Act (32 of 2000), kindly receive my brief comments on your municipality's 2019/20 IDP. These seek to highlight areas requiring attention as part of the IDP review process whilst also presenting a number of issues for consideration in the next IDP review.

SPATIAL PLANNING

The Municipality is acknowledged for attaching the full 2019/2020 Spatial Development Framework (SDF). Various national and provincial policies are acknowledged and articulated within the SDF. However, the IUDF is referred to as the Gauteng IUDF and it must be noted that the IUDF is a national policy. The incorrect map is used as the GSDF 2030 composite map in Figure 3. The municipality is advised to use correct composite. Housing demand is presented in the SDF and planned locations are provided.

However, the municipality is urged make a spatial representation of land identified for future residential development on a map format. Nodal hierarchy are identified inclusive of characteristics. The municipality has indicated the importance of linking human settlement projects to economic opportunities to combat the spatial imbalances of the past. Further articulation must be given on how the municipality intends to link housing facilities to local economic development, nodal priorities, transport/mobility support in outlying settlements.

Although a lot of effort is spent on economic development, the NDP Urban Network Strategy is not acknowledged and no mention is made of NDP projects or Township regeneration. The SDF should focus on township regeneration efforts in order to create hubs in accordance with the NDPs Urban Network Strategy. Agriculture is promoted and a specific Midvaal agricultural policy is developed. Small scale agricultural activities are not indicated and not prioritised. The municipality is required to spatially reference where existing small-scale agriculture activities are situated and where such activities are encouraged.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The municipality lacks overall integrated environmental management plans. However, the municipality identify air pollution, waste pollution in the form of illegal dumping and pollution from manufacturing. The municipality indicates that financial and technical constraints impede their ability to implement proper environmental management. In light of that, it is therefore imperative that the municipality addresses the issue of budget and resources allocation towards achieving this goal. In addition to that, the municipality needs to develop or align to the following strategies as identified in the IDP review in order to deal with some of the encountered challenges:

- Sedibeng DM Climate Change Mitigation Strategy
- GDARD Climate Change Overarching Strategy
- Sedibeng DM Air Quality Management Plan and by laws
- Climate Change Let's Respond Toolkit for Local Government
- Sedibeng DM Integrated Waste Management Plan and by laws
- Sedibeng DM Bioregional Plan
- Bontle ke Botho Clean Up campaigns
- Celebrate Ad hoc Environmental Calendar days for awareness purposes

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The IDP in its political vision and electoral promises made by the Executive Mayor undertakes to "Be open, transparent, honest and responsive government". The Municipality also rates itself in its performance analysis as "Good Performance/implementation/standard" on Anti-fraud and corruption management.

One of the NDP's key priorities is the combat of fraud and corruption which is echoed in both the SONA and SOPA addresses. The MLM IDP 2019/20 is however silent on its stance in this regard.

It is important for the municipality to express itself on how it plans to address the serious consequences of corruption, fraud and maladministration and consequence management, through the implementation of strategies, policies and control measures put in place. Furthermore, the municipality needs to ensure an ethical culture is embedded within the organisation, as well as public awareness and civil education to strengthen public participation and community oversight.

The IDP does not make mention of the functionality of IGR structures in the Sedibeng District or intermunicipal fora being present. This was also expressed by the municipality during a Roundtable engagement with CoGTA in March 2019. CoGTA has initiated a process of circulating a questionnaire to determine what support/interventions are required to assist the district and its local municipalities to strengthen intergovernmental relations and the development of an IGR strategy.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Cash flow: The municipality has demonstrated stability in financial management over the past number of financial years. The attainment of good results and performance are also evident from the previous financial years with positive outcome. The municipality has a positive cash position for each of the three years of the 2019/20 MTREF. A 'positive' cash position, for each year of the MTREF an indication that that budgeted expenditure budget is sufficiently funded.

Cash coverage ratio: The municipality has a reasonable cash coverage ratio of 2.5 months which is expected to increase to 2.7 and 2.9 months respectively, this may mean amongst others the municipality ability to meet short term payments when they fall due. Ideally the municipality should try to maintain reserves of at least 3 months.

Repairs and maintenance: The provision for repairs and maintenance for the municipality is still inadequate, 6 percent when compared to the National Treasury norm of 8 percent, which might affect the long-term sustainability of the municipality assets. Adequate allocation in this regard should be made in order to prolong the life span of assets of the municipality.

CONCLUSION

The issues raised throughout this letter are presented in the spirit of cooperative governance driven by a profound desire to see Gauteng's communities thrive. Their elevation to your attention is thus not done so punitively, but to advance the overall integrated development planning process and its final output as captured in your Integrated Development Plan.

The municipality is thus encouraged to pay close attention to the issues raised in the letter.

Yours faithfully



MR LEBOGANG MAILE, MPL

MEC: COGTA, URBAN PLANNING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

DATE: 13/11/2019

Cc: Municipal Manager
: Office of the Premier
: All GPG Departments